

“Loving As Christ loved”  
John 13:18-38

Four foundational principles:

1. Everyone has a wound. Everyone in life has been mistreated and betrayed.
2. Emotional scars can take longer to heal than physical wounds.
3. The greater the hurt, the greater the blessing that will come with forgiveness.
4. In most situations, running is not an option.

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me so live within My love.” John 15:9

“When you obey Me you are living within My love just as I obey My Father and live in His love.” John 15:10

“My Father constantly does good and I’m following His example.” John 5:17

To understand love I must:

1. Discover the difference between what I feel and what I do.
2. Discover the difference between “I should” and “I can”.
3. Discover the difference between old and new.

When I begin to love as Jesus loves me, four practical things begin to happen:

1. We begin to fellowship with others.
2. We forgive one another as He forgives us.

“Forgiving one another just as God in Christ also forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

3. We accept one another just as He accepts us.
4. We sacrifice for one another as He sacrificed for us.

“This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down His life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” 1 John 3:16

“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.” Ephesians 5:25

Reactions to betrayal: Repress, express, confess.

Characteristics of a betrayer:

1. A betrayer is someone who violates your trust.
2. A betrayer is someone who sells themselves as trustworthy
3. A betrayer is generally motivated by selfishness

What are these self-motivations? Greed, power, disillusionment.

Who can betray you? Parents, friends, business partners, spouse, believers.

How do I respond to betrayal as Jesus did?

1. With humility
2. With love and acceptance.
3. With forgiveness

What is resentment? It is unreasonable (Job 5:2; Ecclesiastes 7:9). It is unhelpful (Job 18:4). It is unhealthy (Job 21:23-25).

How do you know if you are living in resentment? The blame, bitterness and behavior test.

What are the consequences of living in bitterness?

1. You grieve the Holy Spirit.
2. You are left to yourself.
3. You force God to become your enemy.
4. You lose the potential of your anointing.
5. You lose authentic fellowship with the Father.

How can I forgive betrayal?

1. I am to release the person who betrayed me.
2. I am to release the person to God and tell God how much I hurt.

“Dear God, I acknowledge this moment that Jesus Christ took my sins when He didn’t deserve them. I confess to You that I am resentful of \_\_\_\_\_. Even though Jesus died for me and my sins, I am holding against \_\_\_\_\_ the treatment they have given me. Please forgive me. And help me to forgive \_\_\_\_\_. I ask You to free me from this bondage and help me to claim your power through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.”

3. I am to rely on the Holy Spirit

“Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! Just as the father has sent ME forth, so I am sending you. And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, receive the Holy Spirit! Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by him, if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retrain the sins of anyone, they are retained.” John 20:21-23

4. I am to refocus on the future.

Why am I to forgive? God has forgiven me. I will need forgiveness in the future. It sets me free.

Principle: Forgiveness doesn’t make the other person right – forgiveness sets me free.